

# THE MISSIVE

MIDLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

PASTOR TOM TRAVIS

August 2009

## PASTOR PERSPECTIVE

I enjoy going to other churches to see how they worship. But I think I have the wrong job for that because I'm always busy on Sundays. Anyway, I take the opportunity when I can. I had much more opportunity when I lived in Montreal. I would visit the huge beautiful Anglican Church of Christ Cathedral in downtown Montreal. I loved to see the faces of true worshippers lift their eyes to the heavens as the glorious organ music would sweep around those marbled walls. I also remember visiting our neighbor's daughter's Christmas pageant at a Catholic Church. The priest preached in French and what a wonderful sermon it was. He pleaded with the people and lifted them and encouraged them to give themselves to the work of God in their lives. Wow, I thought! Go Father Jacques!

When I was in Seminary it was a requirement for a course that I took to sit in on a Jewish service in the local synagogue. The sanctuary was very interesting. It could seat about 2000 people and the building was very elegant. It was interesting because the ceiling in the sanctuary was designed to look like a tent...kind of like a big old fashioned canvas circus tent. We asked why that was. The Rabbi told us that it was designed like that so the people would always be reminded of the wilderness period in their history when they had no temple and only the synagogue, which was a tent set up in the sand for worship.

I am fascinated by worship and how each church chooses what direction to go in their particular ministry: How to worship, how to sing, how to minister. The speed of music, the style, the language, hymns, contemporary...but whatever the worship is, it's the heart that matters. Consider the words to this song as we worship together.

**The Heart of Worship, by Matt Redman.**

**When the music fades, all is stripped away and I simply come;  
Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your name  
King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.  
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath.**

It's important to have this attitude as we worship, because it's often in moments of worship that our Savior speaks to us deeply, opens our eyes and moves our hearts to commit to Him, and prepares us for a change He wants to make.

Filled with His Spirit,

*Pastor Tom Travis*



## EAGLE SCOUT

Congratulations to Ryan George, who recently completed all the requirements to earn the Boy Scout Eagle Award! To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Ryan had to be active in his troop as a Life Scout for at least six months, demonstrate Scout spirit in his everyday life; earn at least 21 merit badges (12 are specified); serve six months in a specified position of responsibility; and plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project (our park benches). This project had to be approved by his scoutmaster and council. In the next few weeks, Ryan will file a detailed report with his Eagle Scout application, have a Scoutmaster conference, and complete his board of review to attain his Eagle Scout ranking. Congratulations, Ryan! We are so proud of you!

## KIDS CORNER

D N U O R G Y A L P M U J L  
I S S K A T E S A R N O L D  
G A D U G G E R P E Y A L P  
N Y T L A Y O R E L B I B E  
I O D O O W E B B L S W I M  
W R O B I N S O N I V A R T  
S R K I E M Y L A M A E T E  
J E T W W O S E T I K L H R  
E V C O S K V A R E K A D B  
S I O L P R A Y L C D D A U  
U D I P S A Y L O R M D Y R  
S D N A S B Y E B Y E E Y G  
E U A L A H C S I V A R T H

### WORD SEARCH

Can you find the last names of our S. S. children in the puzzle?

- Arnold
- Barko
- Dugger
- Eddy
- Kelly
- Laplow
- Malymeik
- McReynolds
- Miller
- Oskvarek
- Robinson
- Royalty
- Saylor
- Schalau
- TerBurgh
- Travis
- Woods

## RETREAT!

**MEN!** Mark your calendars for the Men's Retreat Weekend at the Woods' cabin in Evert. This will take place on **September 18th-19th**. More details will be coming soon.

**LADIES!** Plan now to go to the Women's Retreat "Paradise" **October 2-4th** at The Springs Camp in Gladwin. (the theme is Hawaiian) The cost is of **\$115.00** includes a room for two nights and five meals. Get your deposit in NOW to reserve your spot! The final payment is due in September. See the table in the church foyer or Sheila Saylor.

## NMI INTERNATIONAL—Jim Boyer

### Boat Ride, Anyone?

How would you like to be a missionary assigned to the Fiji Islands and travel to remote islands by boat? Sounds exciting to me! We were very privileged to hear some spectacular sea stories from missionary Harmon Schmelzenbach at our district NMI convention. He told about one night when he and his crew had to depart home base around midnight in order to arrive at a distant island during daylight hours, as the waters around this island were uncharted and they had to rely on good visual sightings to avoid running into submerged reefs. Long before reaching their destination, one of their two diesel engines broke down, slowing them down enough so they could not reach their destination during day light hours. I like how Harmon described his prayer to God at this time: "Help!!" And "help" he got. With flashlights shining over their bow, the crew was able to spot several submerged reefs, frantically waving their arms to alert Harmon just in time to steer clear, thus making it safely to their distant destination (does not God's light overcome the darkness?).

Harmon Schmelzenbach spoke about being obedient to God and all the blessings he and his family have received from being obedient. He encouraged us to be obedient to God's calling, whether it involves ministry near to home, or to some far away group of islands.

Boat ride, anyone? We're leaving at midnight!

## PRIME TIMERS & FRIENDS—The Thomtons

### Sarah, Plain & Tall

*Set in the early 1900s, this play brings to life the charming, heartwarming story of a Kansas farmer, a widower with children, who places an ad in the newspapers seeking a wife. Anna and Caleb live all alone with their father in an isolated, rural community in turn-of-the-century America. Life is difficult on the farm for the three lonely family members and there are no eligible women in the area for Papa to meet. But one day he receives a letter from Sarah, and before long, all their lives are touched.*

On **Friday, August 7th**, we'll attend the **8:00 PM** show at the Center for the Arts. Tickets can be purchased for \$12.00 each at the MCFTA Box Office...don't wait too long because tickets sell quickly! Emory Eddy is in this production, so mention his name when buying your tickets so that he gets credit for the sale. Afterwards, we'll meet for coffee at Big Boy.

### Breakfast at Shirlene's

Come on out for breakfast at 9:00 AM on Friday, August 14th.

### Prime Timers and Friends Kick-off Event

Join us for our annual kick-off event at the I-Hop restaurant in Mt. Pleasant on August 25 at 2:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the Prime Timer's Bulletin Board. See you there!

## YOUTH GROUP PARENT MEETING

On **Sunday, August 16th, at 7:00 PM**, there will be a meeting for all parents of Youth Group age students (grades 6-12). We will be discussing our philosophy and ideas for the Youth Group, as well as events that we have planned. Come with any questions that you may have regarding the Youth Group. See you there!

## CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

If you are currently working with our children (this includes newborns up through high school aged youth) or if you would like to begin working with our children, you need to attend ONE of the Annual Child Protection Training sessions.

**Wednesday, August 19 from 6:30-8:30 PM**

**OR**

**Wednesday, August 26 from 6:30-8:30 PM**

Please RSVP to the church office (631-4620) if you need childcare that evening.

A background check also needs to be completed prior to working with any of our children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## NYI—Ed Hamilton

### YOUTH GROUP CEDAR POINT TRIP

Just a reminder to those who have signed up and paid for the Cedar Point trip...

We **LEAVE** the church parking lot at **4:30 AM on Tuesday, August 4th!** We will be carpooling over to Bay City to catch the Blue Lakes Charter bus to Cedar Point. You'll need extra money for meals, or you can pack lunch & supper to be put in a cooler. We should be arriving back around 12:30am that night.

## SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE PICNIC

On **Sunday, August 30**, Sunday Night Live presents "A Walk in the Park." Join us as we have a skit, songs, and of course, a picnic! The meat will be provided, but each family is asked to **bring a side dish or dessert to share.** A family friendly game of baseball will follow, weather permitting, so bring your ball equipment if you're playing, or lawn chairs if you just want to watch.

We will also be dedicating the two new benches out by the soccer field. These were built by Ryan George for his Eagle Scout project. What a nice addition to our soccer field area! Thanks, Ryan!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

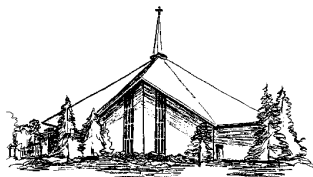
**OFFICE HOURS**—The church's office hours are Monday—Friday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. If you call at other times, you can leave a message on the answering machine and someone on the office staff will return your call.

**FANTASTIC FRIDAYS**...for kids of all ages! Looking for something fun to do this summer? Join us on Fridays from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Preschool through high school (but you can bring your parents, too!) It's a different theme each week! Sign up in the foyer by the preceding Sunday. For information, or contact Amy Kelly or Joni Real.

**M.O.M. (Moms on a Mission) Group** will meet the second Friday of each month from 7:00-8:30 PM. We'll be learning strategies to raise our children according to God's Word, supporting each other, and fellowshipping in the body of Christ. Questions? Contact Amy Kelly.

### Having trouble making ends meet?

Visit the Midland County Food Pantry Network Food Distribution and receive free food to help supplement your family's pantry. Wednesday, August 26, beginning at 12:00 noon at the North Midland Family Center (2601 Shearer Road) You need to bring empty bags or boxes with you. This is limited to the first 300 households on a first come-first served basis, so go early!



**MIDLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

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[www.communitynazarene.org](http://www.communitynazarene.org)

## How Well Do You Know Me?

Perhaps you have seen the "How well do you know me?" quiz posted on Facebook. You create ten random questions about yourself and see how well people know the answers to those questions. Even though your friends and family may not score 100%, God would! There isn't a question that you could ask that God wouldn't know the answer...no matter how obscure that answer might be. God would get 100% every time for every person who posted the quiz. That just boggles the mind when you think about it!

When you log onto the Internet, you have access to all the information available on it. All you have to do is search. In Psalm 139:1, David wrote: "Oh, Lord, You have searched me and You know me." God searches our hearts and minds, and He has access to all the information of your life; even the thoughts that you haven't shared with anyone else, or the things that you do in private. He knows the active parts of your life, as well as the subconscious parts of your mind. He knows you more intimately than anyone else ever can. Only God has the knowledge and power to examine, diagnose, and treat our heart. Only God has the ability to look into our beings—past our denials, rationales, explanations, and excuses—and place His finger on our most vulnerable areas, bringing life where only pain had existed before. God knows everything about you...the good and the bad... He has searched you and He loves you. No matter what you are going through in your life, He will always be there by your side.

As Christians, the focus question should be, "How well do you know God?" Do you seek to know Him more intimately? You should. Just as you spend time with your friends to get to know them better, you need to spend time with God to get to know Him better, as well as get to know what His will for your life is. I challenge you to read all of Psalm 139 and really think about what it is saying.